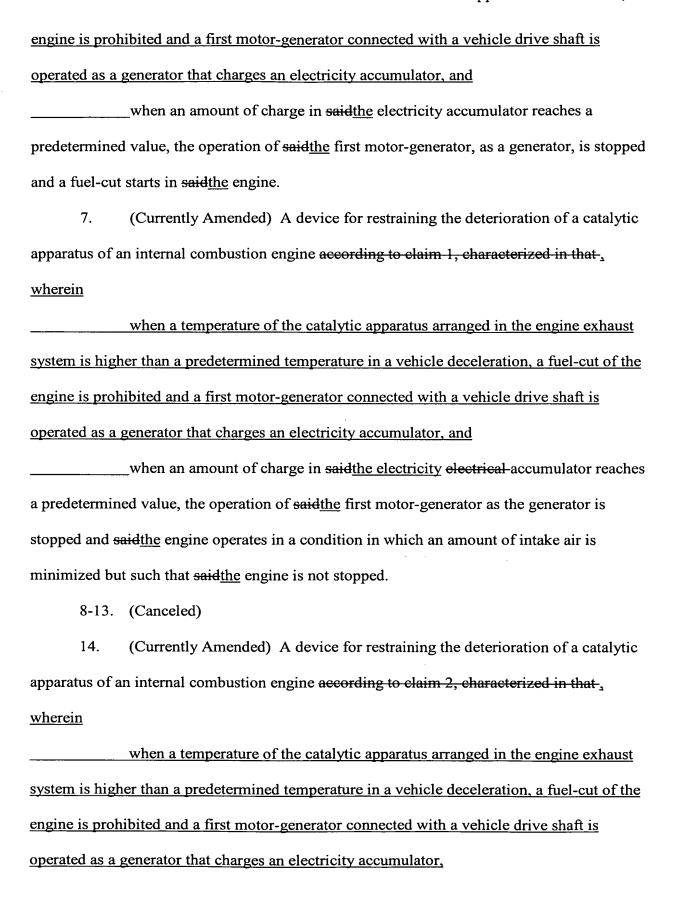
## Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Canceled)
- 2. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to elaim 1, claim 6, wherein characterized in that when saidthe fuel-cut is prohibited, saidthe engine operates such that the torque of the an output shaft of saidthe engine becomes 0.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to elaim 1, claim 6, wherein characterized in that when saidthe fuel-cut is prohibited, a down-shift of an automatic transmission elevates the engine speed.
- 4. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, claim 6, wherein characterized in that when saidthe fuel-cut is prohibited, a second motor-generator connected with the an output shaft of the engine is operated as a motor to elevate the engine speed.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to claim 4, characterized in that said wherein the second motor-generator uses the electrical energy stored in saidthe electricity accumulator.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A device for restraining the deterioration of a catalytic apparatus of an internal combustion engine according to claim 1, characterized in that, wherein

when a temperature of the catalytic apparatus arranged in the engine exhaust system is higher than a predetermined temperature in a vehicle deceleration, a fuel-cut of the



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when the fuel-cut is prohibited, the engine operates such that the torque of the output shaft of the engine becomes 0, and 
when an amount of charge in saidthe electricity electrical accumulator reaches a predetermined value, the operation of saidthe first motor-generator as the generator is stopped and saidthe engine operates in a condition in which the torque of the output shaft of the engine is lower than 0.

15-16. (Canceled)